



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE, AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND FOOD SECURITY

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CLIMATE CHANGE, AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND FOOD SECURITY

Climate, risk and international trade: The role of the WTO in enabling flexible response

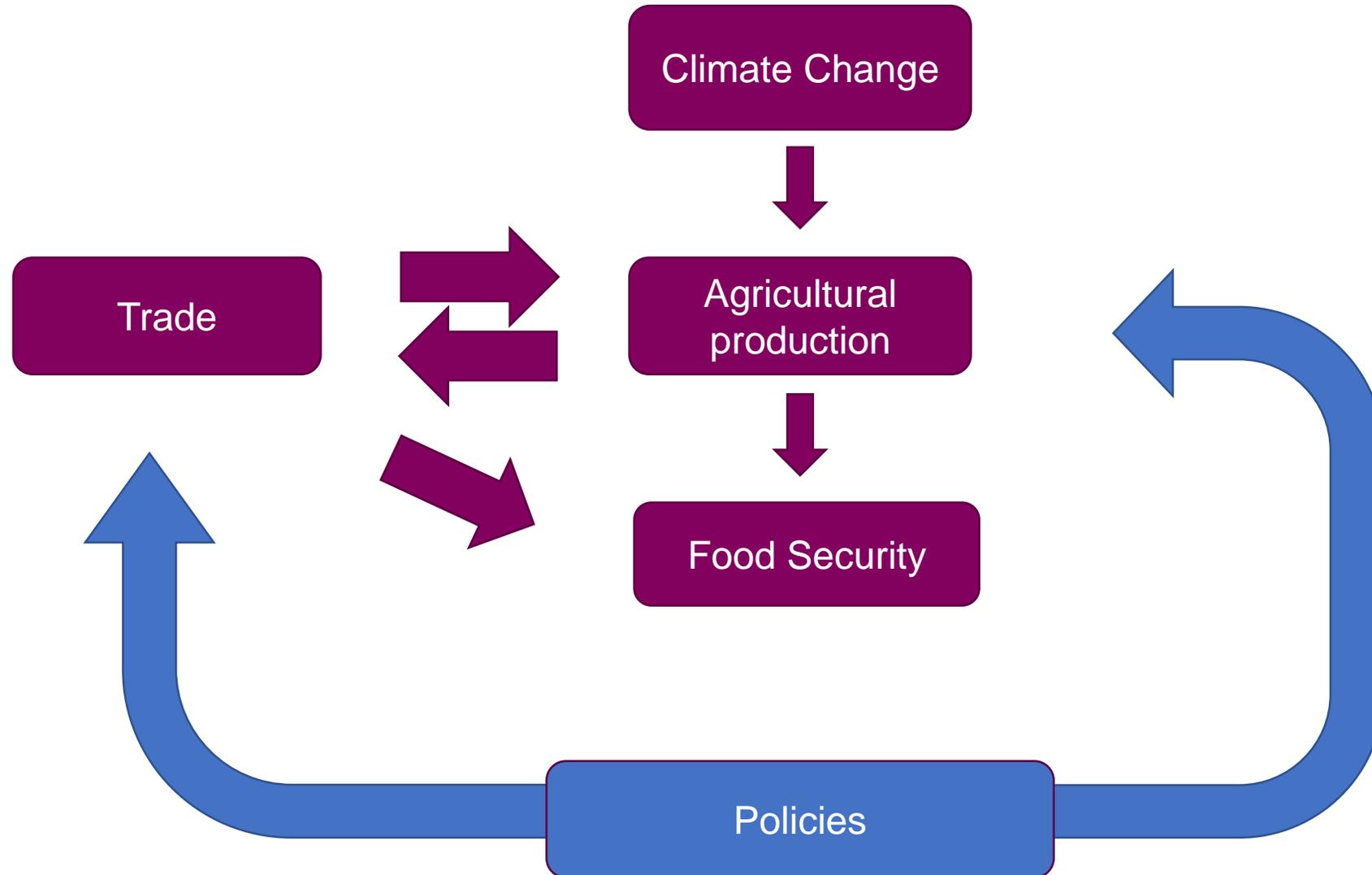
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Global risks, domestic responses

- Climate risks to agriculture production
 - Extreme weather – droughts, floods
 - Pest and diseases
- Policy reactions to respond to these risks can have negative spill overs (increased uncertainty, price volatility, food insecurity...)
- WTO rules seek to strike a balance between providing domestic policy space and limiting unjustified negative market spill overs
- Monitoring and transparency related activities contribute to predictability and access to information.





WTO's role in supporting countries' response to climate change risks

- Rules provide policy space for agricultural support and border interventions
 - Agreement on Agriculture (Green box support)
 - SPS Agreement (Science based SPS measures)
- Framework for monitoring and transparency enhances information
 - Notifications
 - Committee review of trade concerns
 - Trade policy monitoring

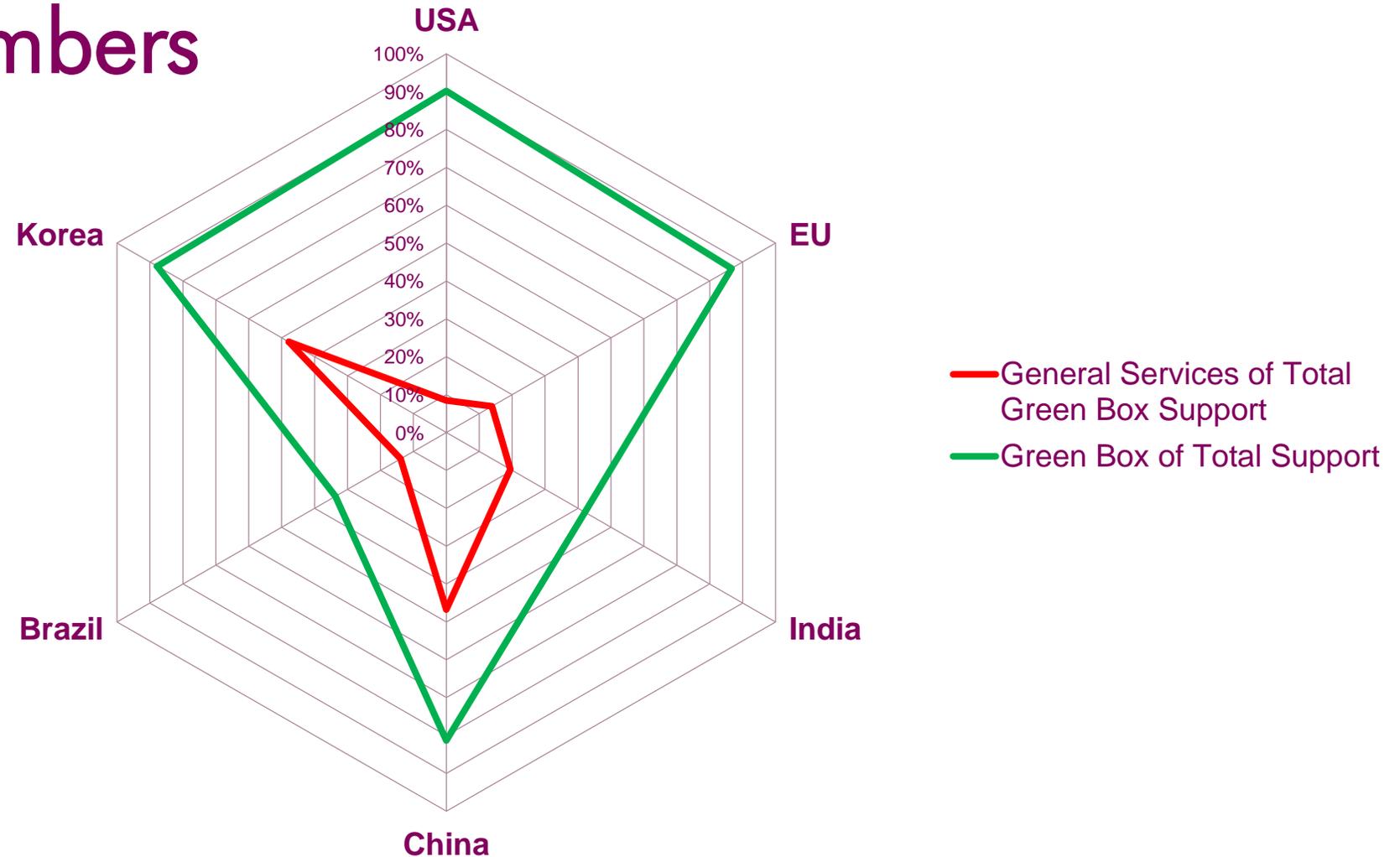


Various types of policies can be used to address risks to agriculture production and trade

	Ex ante	Ex post
Indirect trade impact	General services	Insurance for natural disasters
Direct trade impact	SPS measures for plant and animal health	Export restrictions

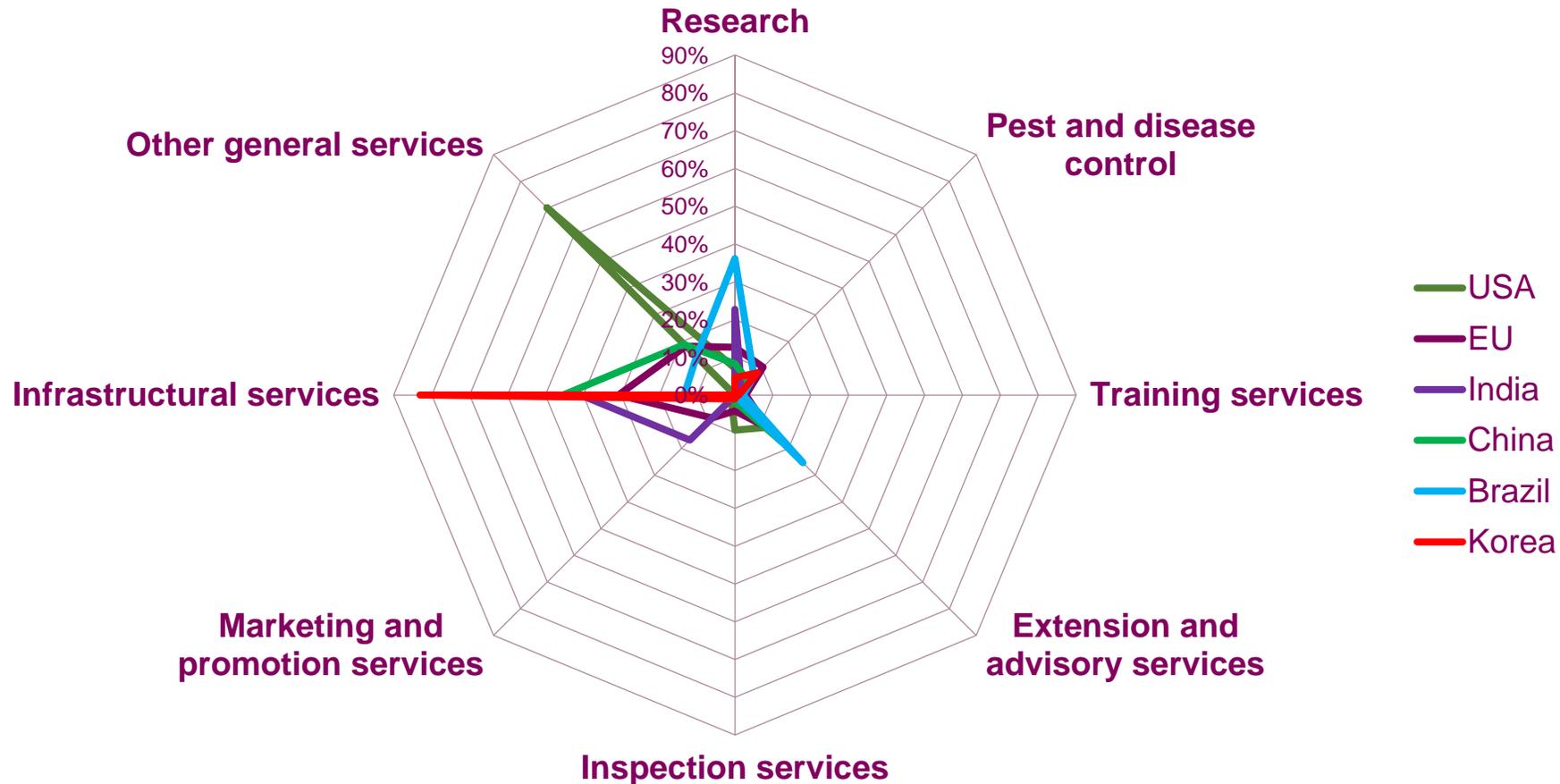


Green box support varies among WTO Members



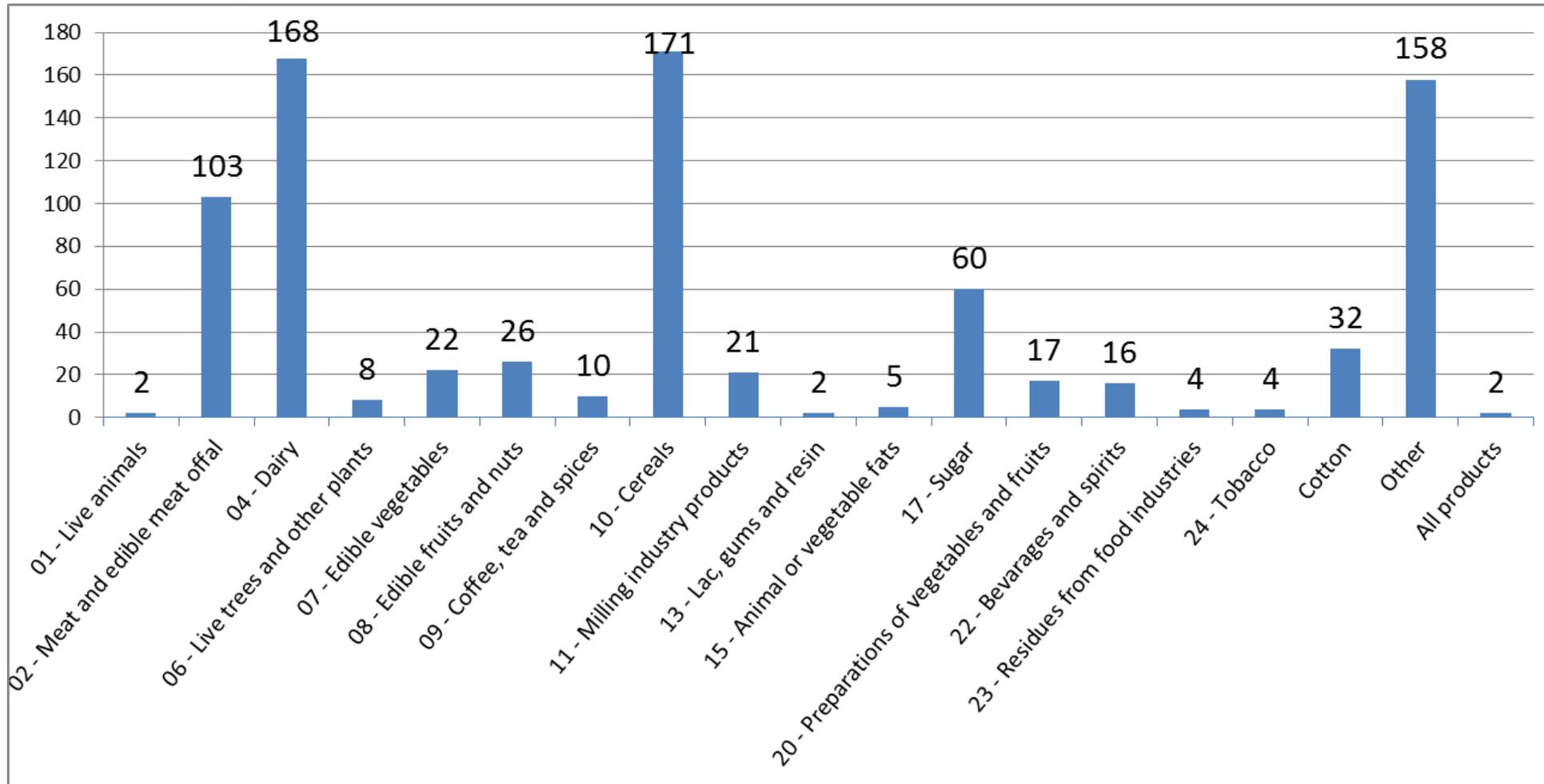


WTO rules do not limit domestic support for “General Services”





Questions in the Committee focus on certain products. What gets left out?





Despite WTO rules, transparency of export restrictions is limited

	Argentina	Egypt	India	Kazakhstan	Russian Federation	Viet Nam	Total (AMIS)	Total WTO ag notifications
2006	2						2	
2007	14		24			4	38	
2008	1	8	22	4		4	39	1
2009		4					4	
2010		4	6	4	7		21	1
2011		4	11		6		21	9
2012			6				6	
2013		8	12				20	
2014		4	6				10	

Source: AMIS (2006-2014)



The SPS Committee can provide insight into evolving risks.

- Notifications
 - Notifications of SPS measures taken to address certain diseases have been increasing (Bluetongue notifications increased by 140% from 1995-2005 to 2006-2015)
- Information sharing
 - Members – for example, Fall Armyworm in African countries 2017 (Madagascar, Senegal, Zambia, Burkina Faso, Kenya)
 - Three sisters – OIE, IPPC, Codex





What could be improved?

- Rules about advance notifications (SPS emergency notifications, export restriction notifications, ...)
- Data
 - Assessing public investment
 - Managing large and growing amounts of data – at WTO databases are increasingly used, but need to be effectively integrated
 - Addressing gaps - issues raised in the Committees often relate to heavily traded products, relevant for assessing risks associated with trade
- Committee work to enhance information gathering and sharing – what is the role of the Secretariat?
- Continue inter-agency collaboration and facilitate synthesis of interdisciplinary data (scientific, economic, policies,...)
- Funding to strengthen SPS capacity (STDF)



THANK YOU

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